

College Guild
PO Box 6448 Brunswick, Maine 04011

Gardening

Unit 5 of 7

*"I think that I shall never see
A billboard lovely as a tree
Perhaps, unless the billboards fall
I'll never see a tree at all"*



Quote by Ogden Nash (1902-1971), American poet and lyricist

1. Explain what Ogden Nash meant by this poem. Do you agree with him?
2. Write your own four-line poem about a billboard.

In this Unit we are going to look at trees and shrubs and try to determine why they are so important to us and our surroundings.

3. If you could be a tree which type would you choose and why?

Wood has many uses, which is why throughout history its been so popular.

4. Name six uses for wood other than building a home.
5. If you had all the necessary tools what would you like to make out of wood? Draw a diagram of what you would make.

Different trees have very different usages due to the type of wood that they provide. Often the types are classified by how “soft” or “hard” the wood is. Here is a chart that lists some of the trees that are in both classifications:

Hardwoods	Softwoods
<p>Mahogany Walnut Oak Ash Birch Maple Cherry</p>	<p>Pine Spruce Cedar Fir Larch</p>

6. What would you create with softwood that would be inappropriate with hardwood?

7. Conversely, what might you create with hardwood that would be inappropriate with softwood?

Different types of trees evoke different feelings or emotions from us.

8. If you reflect on a Weeping Willow, how would your feelings be different from your feelings while reflecting on a California Redwood Tree? (both pictured below)



Weeping Willow



California Redwood Tree

9. Write a conversation between a Weeping Willow tree and a California Redwood tree, each trying to convince the other that it is more beautiful, more important.

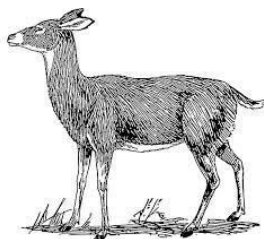
Trees are also classified by either “evergreen” or “deciduous”. The word “evergreen” is a perfect name since evergreen trees are, in fact, always green. They don’t change color in the fall, nor do they have leaves that drop when the weather gets

colder. Examples are the pine, fir and hemlock. Deciduous trees do have leaves that change color and are dropped in late fall. Examples are maple, oak and cherry.

10. If you were able to plant trees, what type would you plant and why?

Trees and shrubs are very important for attracting wildlife, especially by providing food and shelter. Many animals such as rabbits and chipmunks rely on fruits gathered in the fall to keep them fed during the winter. Most birds find safety nesting in trees in springtime. Wildlife is essential to a balanced landscape. Animals are needed to bury nuts and seeds in order for new plants to grow and birds protect their habitat from disease by eating pests and insects.

11. Name four disadvantages of having wildlife in the garden.



Squirrels are famous for being very resourceful when it comes to eating from garden bird feeders. There are many designs on the market but few actually work!

12. Design and draw a bird feeder that is squirrel proof!

People get very attached to trees. Often there are stories in the newspaper about someone refusing to get out of a tree when it is being cut down to make way for a new road or building.

13. Why do you think we have such strong feelings for trees?

Trees are essential to the world we live in. They are thought to help the effects of climate change caused by the emission of too much carbon dioxide. Trees take carbon dioxide out of the air and store it as carbon in their wood. They also release much-needed oxygen back into the environment.

14. Apart from planting more trees, what else can we do to reduce the effects of climate change?

15. How can prisons help contribute to this effort?

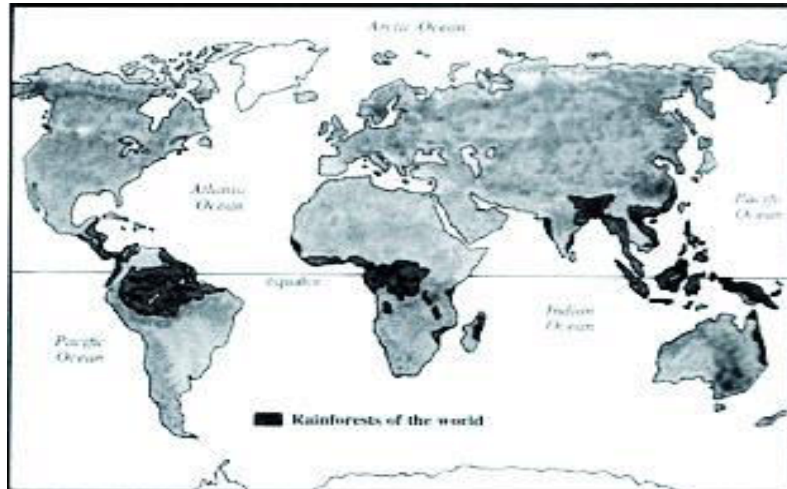
Now it's brainteaser time!

A *laburnum* tree is tall and graceful, with long sprays of bright yellow flowers in the spring. However the leaves, and especially the seeds, are poisonous.

16. How many words can you make from the word *laburnum*? Hint -- there are at least twelve.

Rainforests

Rainforests are the Earth's oldest living ecosystems. Although they cover only 6% of the Earth's surface, they contain more than half of the world's plant and animal species.



17. Looking at the map above try and name where most of the tropical rainforests are. The black areas denote the rainforests.

A rainforest is a tall, dense jungle with very high amounts of rainfall every year. The climate is very hot and humid and animals and plants that live there must learn to adapt to these conditions.

18. Name three animals, three birds, and three plants found in a rainforest.

A rainforest has four distinct layers, each with its own ecosystem:

The **EMERGENT LAYER** is where the tallest trees, over 200 feet high, tower over the forest floor. Most of these trees are hardwood evergreens. This is where there is plenty of sunlight.



19. What types of animals would be found at this level?

The **CANOPY LAYER** is the primary layer and forms a roof over the two remaining layers. This area is dense and lush with a plentiful food supply.



20. Who would be living here?

The third layer is the **UNDERSTORY LAYER**. Very little sunshine reaches this area, and to compensate plants grow bigger leaves in an attempt to reach more daylight. There are a large number of inhabitants in this area, including many insects.



21. Name the animals and insects you might find here.

The final layer is the **FOREST FLOOR**. Here is is very dark and few plants grow. As there is virtually no sunlight, decay happens quickly.



22. What animal or animals would be able to live at this level?

Logging



The world's rainforests are disappearing at the rate of 4,000 football fields every hour. Plants and animals are destroyed and left homeless and many species are at risk of becoming extinct. The delicate balance of the ecosystem is disrupted, altering the atmosphere and climate. Many areas are destroyed by "clear cut" logging, where every tree for miles around is cut down, leaving a vast wasteland.

23. What would you do to control this type of logging without totally endangering the habitat living there?

24. Write a short story about life as an animal or bird living in a rain forest about to be logged.

Our world could not exist, as we know it today, without the resources of the rainforests. Many products such as medicines, rubber, and foods come from these regions. The *cacao bean*, grown mainly in West Africa, is one of the world's most popular foods -- **chocolate!**



25. Why is chocolate so popular?

26. What is your favorite type of chocolate?

Remember: First names only & please let us know if your address changes